

Fact Sheet

Title: **Alaska State Parks Recreational Gold Panning**



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Division of Mining, Land & Water
May 2002

CHUGACH STATE PARK KENAI STATE PARKS INDEPENDENCE MINE – STATE HISTORICAL PARK

Gold panning is allowed in these three Alaska State Parks in accordance with specific regulations.

11 AAC 12.170. DISTURBANCE OF NATURAL OBJECTS.

1. No person may disturb, damage, deface, or remove natural objects including trees, plants, moss rocks, gravel, or minerals, unless authorized by this section or by the director under 11 AAC 18.010.
2. A person may gather berries, fruits, mushrooms, and similar edibles for personal consumption, but not for sale or distribution.
3. A person may gather dead wood lying on the ground in a state park for lawful personal use in the State Park.
4. No person may gather dead or burn wood for personal use off of state parkland, unless authorized by the director under 11 AAC 18.010.
5. A person may disturb natural objects in a manner, which is reasonable and customary, while setting traps while lawfully trapping.

CHUGACH STATE PARK

11 AAC 20.045. Recreational gold panning is allowed in Chugach State Park with the following stipulations:

1. No motorized equipment is used;
2. A person uses no more equipment than a gold pan and a shovel;
3. No chemicals are used;
4. Anadromous fish streams are only open to recreational gold panning between May 16 and July 14 annually;
5. No person may stake or file a mining claim or leasehold location in a state park; and
6. No person may extract or disturb natural material for the purpose of recreational gold panning above the ordinary high water line or where live vegetative matter exists.

KENAI STATE PARKS

11 AAC 20.918. Recreational gold panning is allowed in State Parks on the Kenai Peninsula with the following stipulations:

1. No motorized equipment is used;
2. A person uses no more equipment than a gold pan and a shovel;
3. No person may use a shovel to recreational gold pan within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge located between river mile 45.5 and 74;
4. No chemicals are used;
5. Anadromous fish streams are only open to recreational gold panning between May 16 and July 14 annually;
6. No person may stake or file a mining claim or leasehold location in a state park; and
7. No person may extract or disturb natural materials for the purpose of recreational gold panning above the ordinary high water line or where vegetative material exists.

INDEPENDENCE MINE STATE HISTORICAL PARK

11 AAC 20.919. Recreational gold panning is allowed in Independence Mine State Historical Park with the following stipulations:

1. No motorized equipment is used;
2. A person uses no more equipment than a gold pan and a shovel;
3. No chemicals are used;
4. No person may state or file a mining claim or leasehold location in a state park; and
5. No person may extract or disturb natural materials for the purpose of recreational gold panning above the ordinary high water line or where vegetative materials exist.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Chugach State Park Ranger – 907-345-5014

Kenai State Park Range – 907-262-5581

Independence Mine Historical Park Visitors Center – 907- 745-2827

or

Department of Natural Resources

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